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COLLECTIVE SCHOOL READINGS

THE CHILDREN'S FIRST STORY BOOK

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THE CHILDREN'S FIRST STORY BOOK

BY

MAY H. WOOD

NEW YORK ·:· CINCINNATI ·:· CHICAGO
AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY

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April 27, 1903.

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CHILDREN'S FIRST STORY BOOK.
W. P. I

THIS book is designed to be used as a first supplementary reader. It is believed that the simplicity of its reading matter and the number and beauty of its illustrations will adapt it to the tastes and capabilities of children who are just beginning to read and have mastered the first lessons of some standard text-book.

I see a ball.
It is a red ball.

We roll the ball.

We play with the ball.

The baby rolls the ball.
See him roll it to his mother.
His mother rolled it to him.
Is it not a big ball?
The baby likes to play ball.
Can you play ball?

This is the mother so kind and dear.
This is the father standing near.

This is the brother
who plays with
a ball.

This is the sister

who sings to her doll.

This is the baby, the pet of all.

The mother is holding Baby May.
She is singing a song to her.
She sings, "Sleep, baby, sleep."

Baby May is holding her doll.
She will sing a song to the doll.
She will sing, "Sleep, dollie, sleep."

Our old hen has six chickens.
They are only one day old.
They run about in the grass.
"Cluck, cluck!" calls the mother hen.
The chicks hear her calling.
They run to see what she wants.
"Cluck, cluck!" she says.
"Chirp, chirp!" say they.
"Cluck, cluck!"
"Chirp, chirp!"
Six chicks.
The hen says,
"Come!"
The chicks run.

Tom's father is a farmer.
He has many chickens.
He has geese and ducks.
He has sheep and lambs.
He has cows and horses.

What have you in your hand, Tom?
It is a little pet chicken.
Will you not give it to me?
I must take it back to its mother.
"Cluck, cluck!" says the mother hen.
"Chirp, chirp!" says the chicken.

The farmer has many apple trees.
Some of the apples fall on the ground.
The children pick them up.
The farmer will take the apples into his cellar.
He will put them in barrels.
They will be good to eat when cold winter comes.

Little John went to the woods to find nuts.

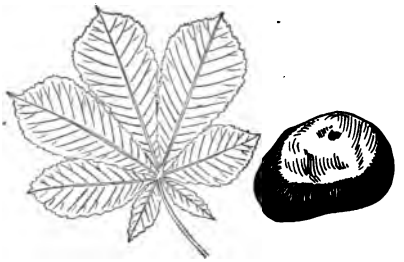
He found some on the ground.

While he was picking them up, he saw a squirrel.

The squirrel ran up a tree.

Then it looked at John.

Squirrels like to eat nuts.
They find them on the ground under the leaves.
The squirrels hide some of the nuts.
They hide them in many places.
They take some of them to their nests in the trees.
When winter comes they will have plenty to eat.

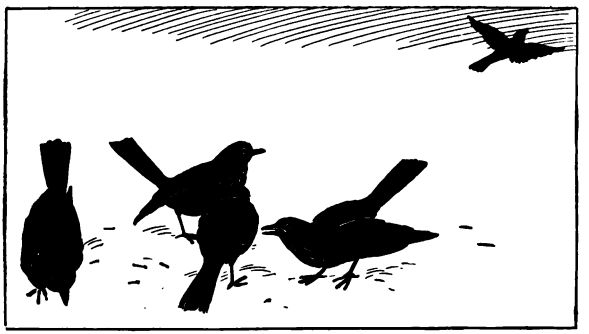


"Come little leaves," said the wind,
one day;
"Come over the meadow with me
and play.
Put on your dresses of red and gold.
For summer is gone and the days
grow cold."

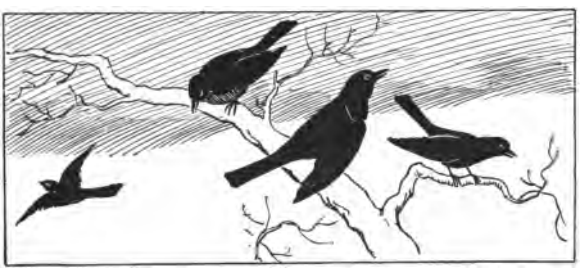
Soon as the leaves heard the wind's
loud call,
Down they came, fluttering, one and
all;
Over the brown fields they danced
and flew,
Singing the sweet little songs they
knew.

Do you see the leaves falling?
The nuts are falling, too.

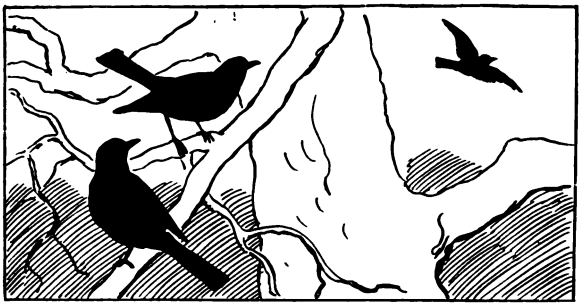
The children made a chain of leaves.
They played the stems were pins.
They pinned a red leaf to a yellow leaf.
They pinned the chain of leaves on the wall.
They filled their hats with leaves.
Some of the leaves were green.
Some were red and some were yellow.



Five pretty robins chirping by my door;
One flies away,
And then there are four.



Four happy robins sitting in a tree;
One flies away,
And then there are three.



Three robin redbreasts talking what
to do;
One flies away,
And then there are two.

Two chilly robins wishing for sun;
One flies away,
And then there is one.

One dear little robin left all alone;
He flies away,
And then there is none.

All the pretty robins have flown
far away;
They will come back,
Some happy spring day.

Jack Frost worked hard last night.
He opened the seed boxes.
Some seeds fell to the ground.
The wind made them fly about.

These are the farmer's boys.
They have been in the field all day.
What do you think they have been doing?
They are going home now.

Look in the farmer's barn.
He has many bags of wheat.
Some of the bags are full of corn.
The farmer saves some of his grain to plant.
He takes some of it to town to sell.

Mary's mother is making her a new dress.

It is a blue dress.

It will keep Mary warm when the days grow cold.

Mary is pleased with the dress.

She will wear it to school.

The dress is made of wool.

We get wool from sheep.

"Baa! baa! baa!" cry the sheep.
The farmer has put them in the barn.
He has put them there for the night.
He gives them hay to eat.
He gives them water to drink.
You can see the wool on their backs.
"Baa! baa! baa!" cry the sheep.
What else do you see in the farmer's barn?

Mary's mother is
new dress.
It is a blue dress.
It will keep Mary
days
Mary is
She
The

grandfather

ng here;

" Baa! baa! b tall;

The farmer h

He has pu

He give is the aunt who

gave Roy a ball;

the baby,

pet of all.

"Whoa," says the farmer; and the horses stop.

"Come, children, climb into the wagon.

We must hurry, for grandmother will be looking for us."

The father says to the horses, "Get up!"

Away they all go to grandfather's house.

It is Thanksgiving Day.

This is the grandmother
so kind and dear;

This is the grandfather
standing here;

This is the uncle
so strong and tall;

This is the aunt who
gave Roy a ball;

This is the baby,
the pet of all.

The children had a fine time at grandfather's house.

Paul, and John, and Mary, and the baby were there.

Grace and Roy were there, too.

Roy's uncle helped put the horses in the barn.

The children played games until dinner time.

Then they all bowed their heads and said, "Thank you."

After dinner they sat around the fire and ate apples and nuts.

Then the grandfather said, "Children, I will tell you a story."

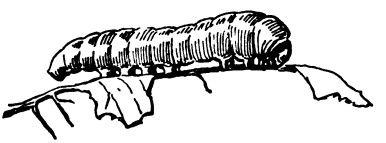
"Tell us the story of the first Thanksgiving," cried all the children.

One day Mary found a caterpillar crawling on a plant.

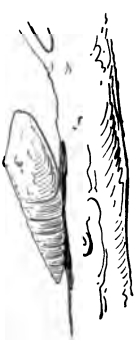
Mary took the caterpillar home.

She gave it some leaves from the plant to eat.

The caterpillar soon grew sleepy.



Then it spun a snug cocoon.



The caterpillar slept in the cocoon all winter.

Did you ever see the cocoon of a caterpillar?

What will come out of the cocoon in the spring?

The north wind doth blow,
And we shall have snow,
And what will the birdies do then?
They'll fly to the barn
And keep themselves warm,
And tuck their heads under their
wings. Poor things!

The day was cold.
Snow was on the ground.
The farmer said, "I will get the sleigh out of the barn.
I think I will take some wheat to the mill.
The miller will grind it into flour.
Mother will make the flour into bread.
The bread will be good for the children to eat."
So the farmer took the sleigh out of the barn.
He put some bags of wheat into the sleigh.
He hitched the horse to the sleigh.
The horse trotted off to the mill.

The miller was working in his mill. He heard sleigh bells ringing and came to the door.

"Good morning," said the farmer.

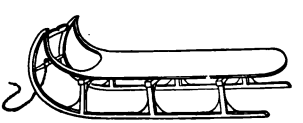
"Will you grind my wheat for me?"

"Oh yes," said the miller, "I will grind it into flour as white as snow."

The mother was glad to get the flour.
She put some of it in a pan.
The pan is on the table.
The mother likes to bake bread for the children.
It will make them grow big and strong.
John likes to see his mother make cakes and bread.
He likes to eat the cakes when they are baked.

This is the carpenter.
He is talking to John.

The day is cold, and the carpenter works in his shop.
He has a long board in his hands.
He is going to saw it.
The sawdust will fall to the floor.
The carpenter's hammer and nails are on the bench.
He is making a sled for a little girl.



The children are all busy.

Tom is pounding a nail.

Mary is sewing a cap for her grandmother.

Baby Roy is making a chain of popcorn.

The children think it is fun to make presents.

The three children went to the woods with their father.

Tom and his father cut down a tree.

They tied the tree on the back of the sleigh.

This is the way they took it home.

The sleigh bells rang.

The children said, "We will put our presents on the Christmas tree."

What do you think of the Christmas tree?
Is it not a pretty tree?

See! Mary has a big new doll.
Tom has a horn.
Roy has an orange.
It is round as a ball.
The father has a new book.
Mary will give her grandmother a fine cap.
The boys will give grandfather a new cane.
All are happy on Christmas day.

One day when it was snowing, Tom and Mary asked their mother for her shawl.

They caught some snowflakes on the shawl.

The children thought that the snowflakes looked like stars.

Here are the children with their sleds.

The boys and girls are happy to-day.

They like to ride on Mary's sled.

Tom can slide with his new boots.

Do you see the boys on the ice?

One of them is Paul.

The children are all happy.

They are glad to have snow and ice.

One cold day in winter, the children said, "Let us make a snow man."
They made a little ball of snow.
Then they rolled it on the ground until it was a big ball.
This was the snow man's body.
They made another ball for his head.
Paul made him some arms of sticks.

The shoemaker sits on a bench.
He has a box of pegs on his bench.
"Rap-a-tap-tap," sings his hammer.
When the shoes are done, he will sell them.
"Will you make me some shoes?" asks the man.
"Rap-a-tap-tap!" says the hammer.

The farmer walks along the road.
He is taking his horse to the blacksmith's shop.
He walks slowly for he does not want his horse to fall.
The farmer says, "Jet, when you get your new shoes, you can trot fast."
Here is the blacksmith's shop.

The blacksmith works in his shop.
He is shoeing a horse.
Is it Jet?
The children like to see the busy blacksmith at work.
They like to see the fire in his forge.
They like to hear the bellows blow.
His hammer sings, "Cling, clang," as he pounds the hot iron on his anvil.

Once there was a miller who had a wise horse.

The horse's name was Dan.

One cold day in winter, the miller took Dan to the blacksmith's shop.

When the blacksmith put some new shoes on the horse, he pounded a nail so it hurt Dan's foot.

The miller drove Dan home and put him in the barn.

Dan pushed the barn door open and went back to the shop.

The blacksmith took the nail out and Dan trotted home.

Was not Dan a wise horse?

Tell a story about this horse.

Grace went with her father to see a coal mine.

She saw the miners digging with their pickaxes.

The mine was damp and cold.

Grace was glad to get out of it.

She said, "I will tell mother what I have seen in the mine."

What do you think of the Christmas tree?
Is it not a pretty tree?

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Tom has a horn.
Roy has an orange.
It is round as a ball.
The father has a new book.
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All are happy on Christmas day.

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They caught some snowflakes on the shawl.

The children thought that the snowflakes looked like stars.

One day Roy and his mother were walking down a city street. They heard a bell ringing. A man cried, "Fire! Fire!" Two black horses came galloping down the street. Roy saw the firemen on the wagon. Roy's mother told him a story about the firemen and their horses.

The policeman stands in the street.
What a tall, straight man he is!
The wagons stop as he motions with his hand.
They will not move till he speaks.
Do you think the policeman will help us across the street?

The soldiers march down the street.

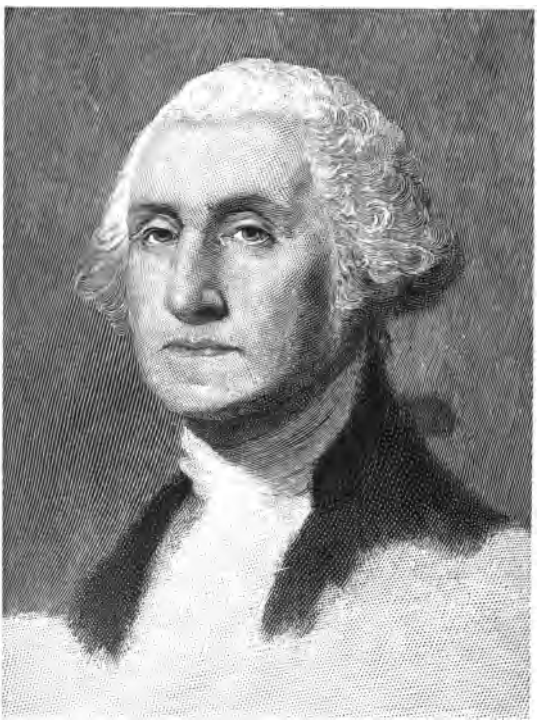
The captain marches in front. It is Captain Tom.

The boys hold their heads high and march straight.

Paul carries a flag of red and white and blue. John has a drum.

The boys like to play soldier. They like to hear the drum.

The children and their teacher are in the schoolyard.
They are looking at the flag.
The flag is on the schoolhouse.
The teacher says, "One, two, three!"
Then the children wave their hats and cry, "Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah for the red, white, and blue!"

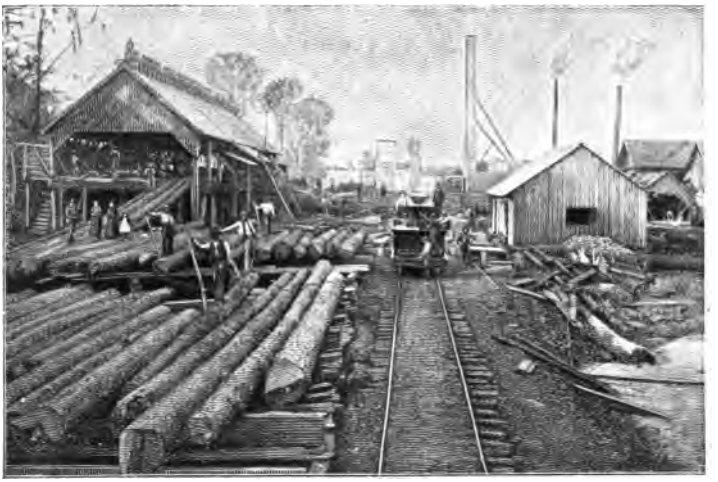


When George Washington was a boy he lived with his father and mother on a farm.

One day his father gave him a box. In the box were a little saw, a hammer, and a hatchet.

George liked to play with his tools.
The little hatchet was very sharp.
One day George chopped down one of his father's cherry trees with his little hatchet.
He was very sorry, and went and told his father what he had done.
His father said, "George, I would rather have you chop down all my cherry trees, than to tell one lie."
When George Washington became a man he was brave and good, and every one loved him.
He was the first president of our country.

These men are chopping down trees.
They are called wood choppers.
When the tree falls, they will cut off the branches and saw it into logs.
Then they will put a chain about the logs.
The horses will pull them to the river.
The logs will float on the water until they get to the sawmill.



Now the men have pulled the logs out of the water.

They have taken them to the saw-mill.

There are big saws in the mill, which will saw the logs into boards.

The carpenter will buy some of the boards.

What will he do with them?

Let us go out into the woods.
The trees stand straight and tall.
You can see the leaves and buds on the branches.
Spring has come, and soon all the trees will be green.
This is a grove of birch trees.
If we go farther into the woods, we shall come to a grove of maple trees.

Bessie and Nellie live in the city.
One morning their uncle drove up to their door and stopped.
He called to the girls to come out.
"Would you like to go home with me, to see us make sugar?"
"Oh, yes. We will ask mother."
Soon they were at their uncle's house in the country.
Their aunt was glad to see them.

"Oh, see the water drip from the trees!" cried Bessie.

She was out in the maple grove.

"The sap is running into the buckets," said Nellie.

They saw the sap boiling in the great iron kettles.

Their uncle gave them some maple sugar to take home.

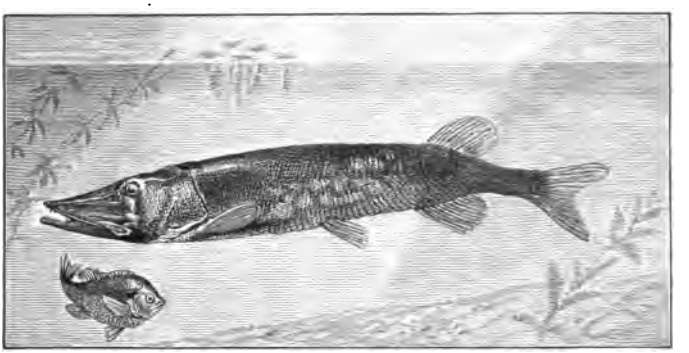
The spring sun shines bright.
It has melted the snow and ice.
Some of the water flows into the brook.
The brooks will carry the water to the river.
The river will carry the water to the ocean.

Fred lives near a river.
He often goes boating on the river.
The name of his boat is Alice.
Sometimes he takes his little sister with him.
Fred will row up the river, until he comes to the big iron bridge.
Then he will stop rowing.
He likes to hear the sound of the horses' feet on the bridge.

Fred and his sister will sit still in the boat.

They can see the fishes far down in the clear water.

Many fishes live in the river.



These fishes live in the river.

A fish swims with its fins and tail.

The fish has a large mouth.

It has two gills.

The eyes of the fish are very round.

There is a boat far out on the water.
It is a sailboat.
I can see the white sails.
The wind blows the sailboat along in the water.
This is a fisherman's boat.
He lives in a house near the river.
He catches fish in the river.
He sells the fish to the people who live in the city.

The little raindrops are falling all about.

Can you hear them calling to the sleepy flowers?

They are calling, "Tap, tap, tap."

The flowers raise their heads and look around.

The violet says, "Thank you," to the warm, spring rain.

Now all the flowers will wake up.

We are glad that spring is here.

One warm, spring day, Mary called, "Come quickly, Tom, and see what the caterpillar is doing."

The caterpillar had awakened from its sleep.

"Why, it isn't a caterpillar; it has wings now," cried Tom.

Mary and Tom watched the butterfly, fluttering its pretty wings.

Soon it flew out at the open window. The children watched the butterfly as it flew away in the bright sunlight.

"Awake," says the sunshine,
"'Tis time to get up.
Awake, pretty daisy and sweet buttercup.
Why, you've been sleeping
The whole winter long.
Hark! hark! Don't you hear?
'Tis the bluebird's first song."

The birds have come back from the south.

They came flying back in the night.

How did they know which way to come?

These birds had a nest in this tree before they went south.

They will build a new nest this year.

The mother bird will lay three or four eggs in the nest.

The father bird will feed the mother while she keeps the eggs warm.

All the robins have come back from the south.

Now they will build new nests.

They will build nests of mud and bits of grass.

The mother bird will lay four or five eggs in the nest.

The father bird will take care of the eggs and nest while the mother bird eats.

When the baby birds come, he will help the mother to teach them to fly.

There's a pretty brown thrush sitting up
in a tree.
He's singing to me; he's singing to me;
And what does he say, little girl, little
boy?
Oh, the world's running over with joy;
Don't you hear? Don't you see?
Hush! look! in my tree,
I'm as happy as happy can be.

See the farmer with his horses and plow. The plow has been in the barn all winter.

The horses pull the plow across the field. Then they pull it back.

When the ground is plowed it will be ready for the seed.

What will the farmer plant in the ground?

These men are planting corn.
The rain will fall and tell the seeds to break open their yellow coats.
Soon the green leaves will peep out.
The corn will grow straight and tall as soldiers.
The farmer will need a great deal of corn to put in his barn.
He will feed the corn to his horses, pigs, chickens, and ducks.
He will take some of it to town to sell.

Once there was an old mother duck that sat on her nest a long time, waiting for one egg to hatch.

At last it broke open and out walked such an ugly duckling!

None of the chickens, ducks, or turkeys in the barnyard liked him because he was so ugly.

So he crept through the barnyard fence and wandered far away.

One cold day in winter, when the ugly duckling was swimming in a pond, Jack Frost froze the water all around him.

Then a man came along and saw him.

He broke the ice with his wooden shoe, and took the ugly duckling home.

The ugly duckling lived there a long time.

One day he flew far away, until at last he came to a pond where three pretty birds lived.

When they saw the ugly duckling, they were kind to him, and asked him to stay with them.

As he was swimming on the pond, he saw his picture in the clear water. He was very happy when he saw that he was no longer an ugly duckling, but a pretty white swan. After that he always lived on the pond with the other swans.

The children are making a flower bed.
John is digging with his spade.
When Mary comes out she will rake the dirt until it is smooth.
The children talk much about the flowers they will have some day.
They will give some of their sweetest flowers to a blind man who lives across the street.

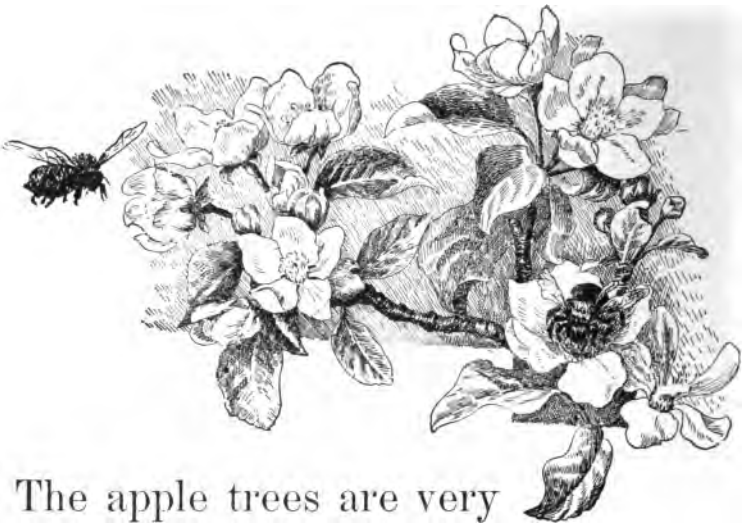
In the spring the mother works hard to clean the house.

This mother is cleaning a window.

The man is cleaning a carpet.

Emma is carrying a pail of water into the house.

Everybody is glad that spring has come.



The apple trees are very pretty to-day.

They are full of leaves and pink and white blossoms.

When the blossoms fall to the ground, the small green apples will grow.

There is a nest in the apple tree.

In the nest are four young robins.

When the apples are ripe, the baby birds will be flying all about.

The children have happy times on the farm.

They toss the hay in the meadow.

They wade in the brook, which flows through the wood.

They hunt for eggs, in the straw in the barn.

The boys ride the horses to the barn.

They help the farmer plant his corn.

The girls hunt for flowers in the fields and woods.

They play among the apple trees in the orchard.

The children laugh and play from morning until night.

Sometimes they say, "We wish it were summer always."

But when the school days come again, they will enjoy telling their teacher about their visit in the country.